

Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Project

Test Pit Excavation to Begin Next Week →

Assessing the Seawall's Condition

To assess the current condition of the seawall, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the City of Seattle (City) will begin digging a series of test pits along the west side of Alaskan Way beginning **Monday, April 29, 2002**. This will entail excavating a pit approximately 12 feet long, 14 feet wide, and 13 feet deep with a backhoe. A dump truck will transport the soil and other excavated material out of the site and a generator and pump will pump the water out of the test pit so that visual assessments of the damage can be made. There will be six test pits excavated and each pit will take approximately one to two days depending upon the conditions encountered. Information from the excavations will be used in the design of the potential retrofit or replacement options.

What Does This Mean to You?

Excavation will begin **Monday, April 29**, and the timing of the actual excavation needs to coincide with a favorable tide schedule. To the extent possible, crews will try to restrict activity to the hours between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm; however, digging may have to proceed outside of that time frame if the tides dictate.

Excavation will mean that sidewalks and parking in front of your business or facility may be restricted for some portion of the 1-2 days required for each test pit. We expect noise from the generator to be at low levels and only 2-3 heavy truck trips to be required for each test pit.

**If you have questions or concerns regarding this effort,
please call (206) 684-ROAD.**



Washington State
Department of Transportation



City of Seattle

For general project information:

- Visit the project website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/viaduct
- Call the project hotline at 206-269-4421

The locations of the test pits, in order from north to south are as follows:

1. Between Broad Street and Bay Street, approximately 300 to 350 feet north of the intersection at Alaskan Way and Broad Street near the Trolley Barn.
2. Between Wall Street and Cedar Street, approximately 50 feet south of the intersection at Alaskan Way and Vine Street.
3. Between Pine Street and Lenora Street, approximately 100 to 150 feet south of the intersection at Alaskan Way and Lenora Street.
4. Just south of Union Street, approximately 25 to 50 feet south of the intersection at Alaskan Way and Union Street.
5. Just north of University Street, approximately 60 to 100 feet north of the intersection at Alaskan Way and University Street.
6. Between Spring Street and Seneca Street, approximately 25 feet south of the intersection at Alaskan Way and Seneca Street.

Additional Background Information: *Stable But Not Permanent*

There is an urgent need to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall because of their age, seismic vulnerability, and critical role in the region's transportation system. Like the viaduct, the seawall was not designed for earthquakes and a preliminary structural evaluation has determined that significant portions of the seawall are vulnerable. In addition, portions of the seawall structure, known as the relieving platform, were constructed with untreated timber and are buried in fill beneath Alaskan Way supporting both the seawall and Alaskan Way itself. Portions of the relieving platform have suffered extensive damage in the past from marine borers

(water bugs that eat wood), requiring major repairs to the platform. Recent discoveries of new damage, in an area not thought to be accessible by marine borers, have created new concerns about its condition.

WSDOT and the City have joined forces to conduct an intensive and expedited study of options to either retrofit or replace the viaduct and seawall as soon as possible. The study results will use input from you and information from an environmental impact statement to make decisions and begin design by 2003. Construction could begin as early as mid-2006.